



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

November 10, 2003

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### LACDA Authorization

In September 2000, AB 1147 (Honda) was chaptered, authorizing State reimbursement of as much as 60 percent of the local costs for several flood control projects around the State. One of those projects was the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project, which involved \$250 million in recent improvements along the Lower Los Angeles River, resulting in reduced flood insurance rates for thousands of the County's citizens. The County's contribution to the LACDA project was approximately \$50 million, meaning that the County could recover as much as \$30 million.

AB 1147 established the following four conditions that must be met before the County can receive its reimbursement:

- The County must adopt a plan for restoration of the L. A. River, including habitat restoration and maintenance projects to increase parkland and recreational opportunities;
- The Secretary of the Resources Agency must appoint an advisory committee to assist in the preparation and implementation of the plan;

- Your Board and the Resources Secretary must conduct a public hearing and make a determination that the LACDA project is a multipurpose project, including flood control features, as well as river restoration, wildlife and habitat restoration, or park and recreational features; and
- The Resources Secretary must consult with appropriate Federal agencies to assess the feasibility, desirability, and cost of modifying the LACDA project to include multipurpose features, and submit a report to the Legislature concerning the results of the consultation by March 1, 2001.

Attached is a November 5, 2003 letter from the Secretary of Resources, Mary Nichols, appointing the existing Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee as the advisory committee required by AB 1147. The letter also states the Secretary's expectations that the other three conditions of AB 1147 can now be met. The responsible agencies will need to move quickly to meet the remaining conditions established by AB 1147, because the most likely source of funding for the \$30 million reimbursement to the County may be from Proposition 50 bond funds that will be allocated in the near future.

On September 4, 2003, the Legislative Counsel published a response to questions raised by Assemblymember Robert Pacheco about AB 1147. County Counsel is currently reviewing AB 1147 and the Legislative Counsel's opinion. Our Sacramento advocates and affected departments will work with the new Administration and Legislators toward obtaining reimbursement once all of the conditions in AB 1147 are met.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DS:ib

#### Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Local 660  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association



November 5, 2003

Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 866  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Los Angeles River Advisory Committee – Assembly Bill 1147

Dear Supervisor Burke:

It is my understanding that the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Works recommend that I appoint the existing Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee (LARMPAC) as the advisory group that will provide input to the preparation and implementation of a plan to restore and improve the Los Angeles River, as required in the conditional authorization of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project in Assembly Bill 1147 (2000). I agree that the LARMPAC is uniquely qualified to provide input on such a plan since it is comprised of experts and representatives of organizations involved in river restoration, habitat restoration, and community development relating to the Los Angeles River. Therefore, I appoint the LARMPAC as the advisory committee described in Assembly Bill 1147.

I expect this committee will assist the County in the development of a plan to undertake restoration projects along the entire length of the Los Angeles River and related tributaries and to increase parkland and recreational opportunities along the river. However, I believe many of these new projects should focus on the areas most impacted by the recently completed flood control project along the lower Los Angeles River.

As you know there are many state agencies within the Resources Agency involved with protection and restoration of the Los Angeles River, including the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. I expect these agencies will be involved with this planning process in order to provide a clear State perspective on the plan.

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>

California Conservation Corps • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation • Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation  
Department of Water Resources • California Coastal Commission • California Tahoe Conservancy • Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy • Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Colorado River Board of California • Energy Resources Conservation & Development Commission • San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy  
Baldwin Hills Conservancy • State Coastal Conservancy • State Lands Commission • State Reclamation Board • Native American Heritage Commission



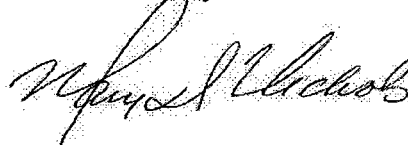
Once this plan is complete, the County and the Secretary for Resources still need to make a joint determination that the LACDA project is indeed a multipurpose project, as required by Assembly Bill 1147.

Assembly Bill 1147 also requires that the Secretary for Resources consult with the appropriate federal agencies about the desirability, feasibility, and costs of modifying the original flood control project to include multipurpose features. While there are several federal agencies working on the river, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) plays a key management role. I expect the Resources Agency departments and conservancies to work closely with the Corps to identify opportunities for restoration projects, including those within the lower river, and to request the Corps take the lead in implementation of these projects.

Upon satisfaction of all the conditional terms of Assembly Bill 1147, it is my strong preference that State funds received by the County go towards acquisition and restoration of riparian areas, and projects that improve water quality and provide recreational benefits along the Los Angeles River.

Providing State authorization of LACDA and making these funds available for restoration will be another significant step in our efforts to re-vitalize the Los Angeles River.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary D. Nichols", written over a horizontal line.

Mary D. Nichols  
Secretary for Resources

cc: Don Wolfe, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works  
James A. Noyes, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works  
Dean Smith, County of Los Angeles, Chief Administrative Office  
Richard G. Thompson, Colonel, Corps of Engineers